

## Summer Healthcare

The sun is shining. Your horse is enjoying its 12 hour turn out and you are delighted about the prospect of no mucking out for at least the next 2 or 3 months (although let's not rely on the British weather for that one!), but what things should we be looking out for during the summer months?

### Worms

These can cause concern as we would all expect. The summer is a high risk time for spread of worms as the horses are all out grazing, and poo picking may slide down our list of priorities as the sun shines and the beach calls! At Milbourn Equine we strongly recommend strategic worming via our worming programme.

For £37 per horse per annum, you are entitled to unlimited worm egg counts (just drop us in a poo sample at the clinic, and we will normally have your results within 48 hours). We will also advise you on a horse by horse basis as to when to worm, and which product to use. The worming programme is there to detect the harmful roundworm within the gut, and helps us to target our worming.

Worm egg counts cannot detect tapeworm, bots or pinworm, but your vet can discuss control of these worms on an individual basis as required. Resistance to wormers is a huge problem at the moment in cattle and sheep, with some farms not having a single wormer that they can use, as the worms are resistant to them all! Unfortunately the equine world is heading in this direction quicker than we would like, and by target worming horses that require treatment, we will hopefully be able to reduce the likelihood of resistance developing.

### Flies and Sweet Itch

The one thing that ruins a lovely hot summers day!

Some simple tips: Purchase a good insecticidal fly spray (Products can be purchased from your local branch of Milbourn Equine).

Try turning your horse out at night and bringing them in during the day, cover them in a fly rug, and apply a show sheen to help stop the flies landing on your horse. Please see our website fact sheet on "Fly Control" for more top tips. If your horse becomes very itchy, then this can be distressing to both them and you as an owner.

Please call us to have a chat to one of our vets who will be happy to advise you.



### Runny or Swollen Eyes

Quite often at this time of year this can be allergic conjunctivitis.

However A SWOLLEN EYE IS ALWAYS AN EMERGENCY!

If you find that your horse has a swollen eye, or if one of their eyes appears more closed than the other, then please call us ASAP so that we can arrange for a vet to come and see you that day. Although conjunctivitis is common at this time of year, there are some very serious conditions that can result in a swollen eyelid that should not be ignored. Uveitis and corneal ulceration are also common causes of a swollen/weepy eye, and ignoring one of these conditions could lead to permanent damage to the eye, and potentially blindness.

### Laminitis

"He can't have laminitis, he isn't fat!" Unfortunately more and more of our horses are becoming overweight, sadly we, as owners are finding it more and more difficult to notice it, as our perception of what is normal has become distorted.

### Laminitis (cont.)

If you are at any point unsure as to whether your horse is overweight, then you can ask one of our vets who will be happy to help you 'body condition score' your horse, and help you devise a suitable weight loss programme for them. We also have a mobile weighbridge that can be brought to your yard if a group wish to have a weigh in! Call us to arrange. Being overweight can predispose your horse to laminitis as they can develop Equine Metabolic Syndrome. This is a condition which is associated with overweight ponies, and as a result of their metabolically active fat cells, can have an increased resistance to insulin. This resistance can lead to large peaks in insulin concentration, which then leads to laminitis. Other conditions such as arthritis can be made worse if your horse is carrying excess weight.

Some steps to help your horse or pony lose weight can be as simple as placing them in a starvation paddock with only hay to eat: this way you are in complete control of what they are eating, whilst still allowing them to stretch their legs.

Soaking the hay for 12 hours before feeding will help to remove some of the sugars from the hay, reducing its calorific content. Unless in heavy work, horses DO NOT require feeding over the summer - if you feel that you have to feed, then a handful of low calorie chaff with a balancer should be adequate.

Invest in a grazing muzzle for turn out time, or turn out for short periods of time (i.e. 1-2 hours a day), and of course; EXERCISE!



### Breathing issues

Pollen and dust are always at a high over the summer months. This combined with a high humidity and increasing temperatures can make for difficult conditions for your horse. Allergies can develop at any age, and just because your horse has not suffered over the summer months before, does not mean that they won't suffer this year.

There is nothing that can really be done to prevent this happening, but if you notice that your horse's respiratory rate has increased, they are putting in a lot more effort into their breathing, or if they have started coughing a lot lately, then please contact your local Milbourn branch to make an appointment, as they are very likely to require some medication.

If respiratory problems are ignored, then they can worsen and possibly cause a secondary infection, which can be much harder to control.



**Airway Assist is a Milbourn Equine supplement that is specially formulated with a complimentary blend of natural ingredients to support a healthy bronchial system in horses. Please ask us if you would like more information.**

Most of all, the summer is there for you to enjoy! Go out and have fun, and if you have any questions or concerns, then please contact one of the vets at your local branch of Milbourn Equine, where we will be pleased to help.





# Straight from the Horse's mouth

MILBOURN  
EQUINE VETS

Summer 2018

# Newsletter

Dedication, Care and Trust



Lameness Issues?

Behavioural Changes?

Joint Problems?

Injury Monitoring?

SYNCEQUINE  
VETERINARY DITI

Veterinary DITI screening  
Assisting equine diagnosis,  
treatment and rehabilitation

A new approach to thermographic imaging that is assisting equine diagnosis and is available from many veterinary practices in the UK and Ireland.

## Thermography

We have teamed up with farrier Yogi Sharp to offer our clients a new service. DITI (Digital Infrared Thermographic Imaging) is a non-invasive diagnostic test of the body's physiology. DITI has been recognised as a useful tool in the early identification of musculoskeletal and neurological injuries, especially non-specific (and difficult to diagnose) lameness.

### Benefits:

- 100% safe
- Cost effective
- Non-invasive
- No sedation
- No travelling – Yogi will come to you
- Reviewing the whole horse in a short space of time

For more information please speak to your vet as your horse will need to be referred and see our website. We will be arranging a client evening soon so please check our website and social media for more details.

## Vets out and about this Summer

If you are at any of these events this Summer you will see our Milbourn Equine Vets providing their services.

**Brightling International Horse Trials** 30th June - 1st July  
**Chilham Castle International Horse Trials** 28th - 29th July  
**Firle Place International Horse Trials & Country Fair** 18th - 19th August

Introduce  
a Friend!

and be  
rewarded!

## Introduce a Friend!

It's easy, just complete the details found in Reception or on our website, and both you and the friend you introduce to Milbourn Equine Vets will receive a £10 discount. T&C's apply.



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www.milbournequine.co.uk



## Completing of Insurance Forms

We have had to make a few changes to our insurance form policy due to the time consuming nature of the process. There will now be a charge for completion of an initial claim of £12 and a subsequent charge of £8 for any further claims or information required. Below is clarification of what we need from you and the changes we have made.

Once you have completed and signed your section of the claim form, send the form in to us ensuring payment is made for the excess and completion of the form. We will be unable to process your claim until we have received payment. Your vet will then complete the form and we will submit the required invoices and clinical notes. Please remember it is your responsibility to ensure that the invoice is settled irrespective of whether the insurers settle your claim. Many thanks with your assistance in this matter. If you have any queries regarding this please do not hesitate to call us.

## Milbourn Equine has a new website



We have recently updated our website to include up to date information pertaining to new GDPR data regulations as well as new information sheets and the ability to request a vetting online by submitting our form. Please also help us comply with the new data regulations by completing our data protection form if you have not already done so. Thank you!

## Howard honoured with selection

If you happen to be going further afield and attending the World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina in September you will bump into our Clinical Director Howard Newitt.



We are very proud that he has been invited by the FEI to form part of the veterinary commission. This is a great honour as only a handful of vets are invited from across the globe to be part of the FEI veterinary team who will officiate at the horse inspections (trot-ups) and have overall responsibility for the welfare of the horses at the games. This appointment results from Howard's 12 years as an FEI vet which includes previous appointments at local eventing & reining competitions, British Young Horse Eventing championships, Junior European Reining championships & London Paralympic dressage.